

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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ICA FOR NEA, PGM/RC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, IS, EG
SUBJ: WEST BANK PRESS REACTION: CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

1. NEWSPAPERS OF SEPT 9 ENTERTAIN PRESS REPORTS SPECULATING ON PROGRESS OR LACK THEREOF AT CAMP DAVID WITH MODERATE, PRO-JORDANIAN AL QUDS REPORTING ISRAELI CONCESSIONS, FULL ACCEPTANCE OF RES 242, AND PRESIDENT CARTER PRESSING THE ISSUE OF PALESTINIANS THROUGH SEEKING TO IDENTIFY "MODERATE" PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP. ITS EDITORIAL FOCUSES ON REPORTS OF BEGIN'S ACCEPTANCE OF MODIFICATIONS IN THE AUTONOMY PLAN AND SAYS "WE HOPE, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE." PRO-PLO AL FAJR CITING WIRE SERVICES REPORTS THAT "ISRAEL HAS NOT CHANGED HER STAND," THAT EGYPT HAS PRESENTED A NEW INTERPRETATION OF RES 242, AND THAT BEGIN SUGGESTS 242 "WITHOUT ADDED INTERPRETATION" TO SERVE AS A "DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES." AL FAJR COLUMNIST ZIAD ABU ZAYYAD DESCRIBES CAMP DAVID AS A "SALE WHERE ANY ISRAELI "BARGAINS" CAN ONLY BE CONTRASTED TO EGYPTIAN "GIVE AWAYS." AL FAJR'S EDITORIAL AGAIN CALLS FOR THE US TO REALIZE THE "CORE" OF THE ME CONFLICT IS THE PALESTINIAN CASE. INDEPENDENT ASHA'B DOES NOT PUBLISH
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SATURDAY MORNINGS.

3. AL QUDS BANNER HEADLINES THAT CAMP DAVID CONCENTRATES "ON THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA" AND "BEGIN PRESENTS NEW 'FLEXIBLE' SUGGESTIONS AND ACCEPTS IMPLEMENTATION OF RES 242 ON THE WEST BANK." OTHER FRONT PAGE STORIES COVER "CARTER PRESENTS NEW IDEAS ON DEVELOPMENTS TO EVADE ISRAELI REFUSALS

AND GAINS AGREEMENT FOR STAGED WITHDRAWAL," "CARTER WORKS FOR A SETTLEMENT THROUGH A SCHEME TO DECIDE THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS AND HOPES MODERATE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP WILL SURFACE" (UNITED PRESS), AND "JORDAN WILL BE DECISIVE ELEMENT OF CAMP DAVID SUCCESS AND RIYADH MIGHT FLEX HER ECONOMIC MUSCLE" (REUTER).

4. EDITORIALY, AL QUDS CONSIDERS REPORTS OF BEGIN FLEXIBILITY ON THE WEST BANK AND HIS AUTONOMY PLAN, IF TRUE, A "STARTING POINT" THAT MIGHT "SAVE CAMP DAVID FROM THE FAILURE MOST OBSERVERS PREDICT." REPORTED ISRAELI CONCESSIONS INCLUDE GIVING UP "SOME POINTS OF THE AUTONOMY PLAN, AMENDING OTHERS, CEASING SETTLEMENT, ACCEPTING ONLY SIX MILITARY POINTS WITHOUT TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY..."

5. AL FAJR'S MAIN HEADLINES CONCENTRATE ON THE SITUATION IN IRAN. HOWEVER, DOMINANT PAGE ONE SPACE IS GIVEN TO STORIES FROM CAMP DAVID. CITING WIRE SERVICES AND "CAMP DAVID SOURCES" FAJR REPORTS "CARTER PRESENTS IDEAS AND NEW ALTERNATIVES; CONFERENCE SOURCES REPORT ISRAEL HAS NOT CHANGED HER STAND TOWARD SETTLEMENTS;" "PRESS SOURCES REPORT EGYPT HAS PREPARED A NEW INTERPRETATION OF RES 242," "BEGIN CALLS FOR CONSIDERATION OF RES 242 WITHOUT ADDED INTERPRETATION AS A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES." PROMINENT POSITION IS ALSO GIVEN TO A REPORT FROM DAMASCUS THAT "SYRIAN NEWSPAPERS WARN THE QUIET ARABS ABOUT SUPPORTING OR AGREEING TO THE RESULTS OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSPIRACY SUMMIT."

6. ZIAD ABU ZAYYAD'S COLUMN LIKENS CAMP DAVID TO A "SALE". "IF WHAT ISRAEL IS READY TO GIVE UP CAN BE CALLED A BARGAIN, WHATEVER SADAT WILL OFFER SHOULD BE DESCRIBED AS A GIVE AWAY." THE WRITER "HOPES SADAT WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE POWER OF THE ARABS TO GIVE BEFORE HE IS INVOLVED IN SUCH SELLOUTS WHICH MIGHT EAT UP PART OF HIS CAPITAL, IF NOT ALL OF IT."

7. EDITORIALY, AL FAJR CRITICIZES THE US AS "STILL FAR FROM REALIZING THE CORE OF THE ME CONFLICT" AND "FAR FROM BEING ABLE TO SEE TRUTH AND JUSTICE."

8. INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN NATIONALIST ASHA'B DOES NOT PRINT ON SATURDAY.
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